

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 211999
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S E C R E T STATE 211999

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 19319 ACTION TEL AVIV INFO SECSTATE
DATED AUG 19:

QTE: S E C R E T CAIRO 19319

EXDIS

FOR LEWIS FROM EILTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR EG IS

SUBJECT: BEGIN'S USE OF THE GERMAN "PEACEFUL RELATIONS"

- ANALOGY

I HAVE NOTED MR. BEGIN'S FREQUENT ALLUSION TO THE GERMAN
MODEL OF BUILDING "PEACEFUL RELATIONS" WITH NEIGHBORS
EVEN WITHOUT PEACE TREATIES AND HIS SUGGESTION THAT THIS
MIGHT BE APPLIED IN THE CASE OF EGYPT AND THE ARAB STATES
AS WELL. THE CONCEPT IS CLEARLY A GOOD ONE,BUT THE
ANALOGY IS ONE WHICH MANY EGYPTIANS RESENT. THEY POINT
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PAGE 02 STATE 211999

OUT THAT GERMANY WAS DEFEATED AFTER WORLD WAR II, HENCE
HAD NO CHOICE. SUSPICIOUS AS THEY ARE OF BEGIN'S MOTIVES,
THEY VIEW HIS SUGGESTION AS IMPLYING THAT EGYPT WAS ALSO
DEFEATED IN 1973 AND SHOULD, THEREFORE, ACT ON A GERMAN
PATTERN. THEY POINT TO THE MUCH VAUNTED, BUT NOW
SHATTERED BAR LEV LINE AS THE SYMBOL OF THEIR MILITARY
SUCCESS AND ARE CONVINCED THAT HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR MASSIVE

INFUSION OF AMERICAN EQUIPMENT, THEY WOULD HAVE DEFEATED
THE ISRAELIS. IT IS PART OF THE NATIONAL MYTH THAT EGYPT
WON THE 1973 WAR AND MYTHS DIE HARD. THUS, WHEN MR.
BEGIN SUGGESTS THAT THE EGYPTIANS SHOULD ACT AS THE
DEFEATED GERMANS DID, THE EGYPTIANS SEE RED. HE MAY NOT
MEAN THAT, BUT THAT'S THE PERSPECTIVE IN WHICH MANY
EGYPTIANS SEE HIS PERTINENT COMMENT. EILTS UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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